

**From:** John Cook  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 11/21/01 12:42pm  
**Subject:** Disgusted at settlement

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am disgusted to read about the Microsoft Antitrust settlement. Such a settlement encourages anti-competitive practices for businesses world-wide, because the benefits can be seen to far outway the punishments to be. An example must be set, and action should be taken on two fronts. Microsoft must repay society for the tremendous harm it has done to industry and computer-using society to date. Secondly, action must be taken to discourage similar practices from occurring in the future.

The only real way to action this second problem requires separating Microsoft into two companies: Applications, and Software. How else can other software companies (or other operating system companies) compete on an equal basis?

On a specific note, allowing MS to supply schools with its software is probably the best marketing program it could conceive. We already know how important seeding software into school students -- managers of the future -- is, evidenced by the substantial computer software discounts already given to students. But why would schools bother buying competitors' software if it is now provided with free software from MS? And the cost to MS? Development costs are fixed. How much does it cost to distribute an extra N-thousand copies? Further more, when MS fund other school programs to you imagine they will teach using Word Perfect on a Macintosh? Not a chance on earth. This is no punishment, this is marketing budget well spent.

I urge you to strongly reconsider this settlement. It is not just America that has been disadvantaged and harmed by the actions of Microsoft, it is the world, and now it is likely to continue to be so.

Sincerely,  
John Cook (computer programmer)

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John Cook  
john@jazzmedia.com.au  
3/58 Carr Street  
Coogee NSW 2034  
Australia